

[This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application]

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) Device for forming a number of thin-walled objects by means of a ~~blow-molding~~thermoforming process from a layer of material which is deformable when heated, comprising:

-a ~~lower~~ mold with cavities arranged therein, wherein ~~the~~an internal shape of each of the cavities corresponds with ~~the~~an external shape of the ~~objects~~an object to be formed in each cavity; and means for carrying the layer of material to be molded onto the ~~lower~~ mold;

~~-supply means for supplying gas to the upper side of the lower mold;~~

~~-heating means for heating the lower mold;~~

~~-mandrels movable into the cavities;~~

-wherein the cavities are each enclosed by a cavity wall which is divided into wall segments;

-wherein the wall segments are movable in a linear direction between a first position, in which they ~~form~~enclose the ~~wall~~ of the cavity and a second position in which an object formed in the cavity ~~can be~~is released; and

~~-wherein the segments are coupled to a drive element to drive the segments between the first and second position;~~

wherein the wall segments of each cavity are coupled to a linear drive member,

wherein the linear drive member executes a linear movement in a direction substantially perpendicular to a direction of movement of the wall segments,

wherein the linear drive member is connected to the segments by means of a coupling converting said linear direction of movement of the drive member to the movement of the wall segment in a substantially perpendicular direction, and

wherein the drive member extends substantially in a space underneath the cavity

~~-wherein the drive element is a common drive element coupled to wall segments of adjacent cavities; and the drive element resides at least substantially in a space between the~~

adjacent cavities.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) Device as claimed in claim 21, wherein the coupling comprises ~~four~~ prismatic pins, each pin extending at the same angle relative to the direction of movement of the linear drive element member, and wherein the segments each comprise a channel ~~into which the receiving one of the prismatic pins, fit and each channel having an axis corresponding to the axis of the corresponding pins~~ a longitudinal axis of the channel extending in substantially a same direction as a longitudinal axis of the pin.

4. (Currently amended) Device as claimed in claim 31, wherein the linear drive element member extends in the vertical direction.

5. (Currently amended) Device as claimed in claim 1, ~~further comprising at least one wherein the mold comprises a plate forming part of the lower mold and connecting onto which engages the wall segments; and wherein the plate having~~ has guide means for guiding the wall segments when they execute their movement between the first position and the second position.

6. (Currently amended) Device as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a stamp arranged in each of the cavities wherein the stamp is movable in vertical direction to eject ~~the formed objects~~ an object formed in each cavity.

7. (Currently amended) Device as claimed in claim 6, wherein the ~~stamps are~~ stamp of a cavity is coupled to the drive element of that cavity.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (New) Device as claimed in claim 1 wherein each cavity is enclosed by at least three segments wherein separating planes between the segments extend substantially perpendicularly of the upper surface of the mold, and each of the segments is movable between the first and second position by the linear drive member.

12. (New) Device as claimed in claim 11, wherein each cavity is enclosed by four segments, wherein each of the segments is movable by the linear drive member.